

ABSTRACT

A tissue anchor insertion tool includes a first member defining a region configured to receive a tissue anchor, and a second member positioned to substantially cover the tissue anchor during introduction to a surgical site. The second member is coupled to the first member such that relative motion between the members deploys the tissue anchor from the region. The first member includes an applicator configured to move laterally to deploy the anchor from the region. A method includes providing first and second members coupled for relative motion, inserting a tissue anchor into tissue using the first and second members, and relatively moving the first and second members to deploy the tissue anchor from the first member. The tissue anchor is mounted to the first member. The second member substantially covers the tissue anchor during the insertion into tissue.

10

15

40060086.doc

TOP SECRET - DEFENSE